

May 9, 1975

Finally, if I can have your attention, I'd like to talk about what this does to legislative-executive relations. It's my feeling that the Legislature has primary responsibility for setting priorities on new programs and on cut backs of existing programs or modifications thereof. Now that has been a role that has been slipping to the executive branch in this state, as it has in other states. It has nothing to do specifically, I would say for the most part, with the characters that are playing the roles of the executive in the legislative branch. If you have a 3% cut back across the board what's it going to mean? I think one of the things that it will mean in terms of executive-legislative relations is that the Governor, who happens to occupy the position at the moment, will feel less free to veto new programs. He will not have the pad in the continuation programs. If we really want to set some new priorities in specific areas and to cut back in other areas here's a means of making it less likely that the Governor is going to veto some of the new priority programs that we're presenting to him. He will not be able to afford to cut back as readily on those new programs when he knows that 3% is being cut out of existing continuation budgets. I want to point out, to make things very clear to you, finally that I am talking about a cut back not only in operations administration of existing agencies both code agencies and independent and quasi independent commissions, but also in the state grant and aid programs that those agencies operate for us.

That's my initial presentation of why I'm presenting this to you. Keep in mind that, if successful, I will go ahead and have a similar amendment for a 3% cut back offered on the other appropriation bills before you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: This is just the first shot because he's kind of lost me, in a lot of places, in exactly what he's trying to do in some places. I'll have to just open up. Probably at a later time when he goes into more detail, I'll know more of what exactly he's doing. All funds, as I recall, are in the General Fund at some time. Yes, I think Senator Marvel will say that's true. Then they're transferred out of the General Fund. Then he starts making some exceptions. He lost me on the administration. He's talking about cutting off the administrative funds. He obviously is, but I don't know what else. I assume, really that I think this is going to be the test. I assume the Budget Committee did its job. I assume that that committee did its job. I've been sitting here for the most part in most cases probably 9 out of 10 I've gone along with the Budget Committee's decision. I don't think the rest of us are in a position ... Senator Bereuter was on the Budget Committee. If he's voted for some of these appropriations he's now trying to cut, I think he's doing the wrong thing. Why did he vote for them in the first place if he's now trying to cut it? I don't know which ones he voted for and against. If that's the case, that he voted for some of these things and now he says I'm going to cut you, what was he doing on the Budget Committee? Who said that? I didn't.